



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## **NMFS Requests Comments on Options to Manage Atlantic Shark Fisheries**

Based on the latest 2007 stock assessment of Small Coastal Sharks (SCS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is making the following determinations of the status of several shark species:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Overfished</b>	<b>Overfishing</b>
Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks	No	No
Blacknose Sharks	Yes (rebuild in 19 years)	Yes
Bonnethead Sharks	No	No
Finetooth Sharks	No	No

Copies of the assessments can be obtained by writing the address listed below.

Based on the 2007 stock assessment, NMFS believes the implementation of new management measures via an amendment to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is necessary to rebuild blacknose sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. As part of the process to amend the Consolidated HMS FMP, NMFS is requesting comments on a variety of management options for this action. Specifically, NMFS requests comments on commercial management options including, but not limited to, quota levels, regional and seasonal quotas, trip limits, minimum sizes, quota monitoring, authorized gears, permit structure, and prohibited species. In addition, NMFS is seeking comments on recreational management options including, but not limited to, retention limits, minimum sizes, authorized gears, and landing requirements. NMFS also seeks comments on display quotas and collection of sharks through exempted fishing permits, display permits, and scientific research permits. Comments are also requested on management measures to reduce fishing mortality on blacknose sharks in shrimp trawl fisheries because a significant proportion of fishing mortality is occurring in these fisheries as bycatch.

Comments on this action must be received no later than 5 p.m., local time, on August 5, 2008. Comments can be submitted to Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on SCS Amendment 3 to HMS FMP." Comments can also be submitted via e-mail at [SCS\\_Scoping@noaa.gov](mailto:SCS_Scoping@noaa.gov), or via FAX at (301) 427-2592.

Within the comment period established in this action, NMFS intends to make a scoping document available and hold scoping meetings to gather public comment on the implementation of new management measures for Atlantic sharks. The time and location of the scoping meetings will be announced in a future notice.



This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic Shark Fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz, at (301) 713-2347, or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

Emily H Menasches  
for Alan Risenhoover  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

5/1/2008  
Date